

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cape Cod Community College's 50th anniversary.

Our Nation's community colleges provide the dream of achieving a higher education to millions of students each year. They are the Nation's key supplier of workforce development and retraining needs, and—just as importantly—they build lasting partnerships and contribute significantly to the communities they serve. Cape Cod Community College is a leading institution of education, not only for the Cape, but for the entirety of Massachusetts.

Since 1961, Cape Cod Community College has served as a beacon of higher education in West Barnstable County, the second institution to open as part of what is now a 15 community college system in Massachusetts. When Cape Cod Community College's doors opened, there were 166 students enrolled. Two years later, the first evening program found 130 students enrolled in ten different degree-credit courses. By that spring, the first summer session had enrolled 145 students from 50 colleges and universities taking degree-credit courses. Now, 50 years later, that number has increased to nearly 7,000 students with over 80 degrees and certificates being offered.

Cape Cod Community College has a true tradition of excellence thanks to its outstanding leadership, superior faculty and staff and motivated students. They have received national prominence both for their programs as well as their inclusion of Cape Cod residents. Cape Cod Community College has been recognized as much for its sustainability education as its service to the adult Plus 50 learner and military personnel at Otis, the Massachusetts Military Reservation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Cape Cod Community College, its President Kathleen Schatzberg and the entire college community on the celebration of 50 years of service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

JOHN VILLYARD TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. John Villyard, CEO of the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative. Mr. Villyard, who has served in this capacity since 2000, will be retiring at the end of this year.

Mr. Villyard has overseen numerous efforts to improve the Cooperative's effectiveness. An

accountant by trade, he utilized new technology, cost-based accounting practices, and the simplification of electric bills to increase efficiency. Under his leadership, improvements to infrastructure and building projects have reduced power outages and overtime costs by 34%. Furthermore, he has demonstrated environmental stewardship by negotiating the purchase of renewably produced power and developing an avian protection plan.

As a child, Mr. Villyard watched his father, Ray, lead the Cooperative as it expanded from five to 34 employees. John has followed his example and has worked to build strong relationships with the board of directors, his employees, and the community at large, all the while treating the Cooperative as an extended family. In doing so, he has improved the safety program, initiated a lineworker scholarship, and established the SLVREC Energy Foundation.

After graduating from the University of Colorado, John served honorably in the United States Air Force for eleven years. He then returned to the San Luis Valley and worked as an accountant, before being hired as the SLVREC's CFO in 1996. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Jowanda.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. John Villyard. I rise today to thank him for his commitment to serving the energy needs of the San Luis Valley with integrity and innovation.

HONORING ST. LINUS SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of St. Linus School, an exemplary Catholic elementary school in Oak Lawn, Illinois, for receiving the prestigious 2011 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award.

In 1982, The Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize public and private schools boasting high or significantly improved achievement. The program's goal is to identify aspects of thriving American schools in order to replicate their success. This year there are 19 National Blue Ribbon Schools in the State of Illinois, and I am proud that one of these exceptional schools is located in my district.

The school's namesake, Saint Linus, is perhaps best remembered for his steadfast loyalty to his mentor, St. Peter the Apostle. Linus succeeded Peter as the second Pope of the Roman Catholic Church and dedicated his life to teaching Peter's story.

The mission of St. Linus School is "to educate and inspire each child with Christ-centered values through challenging education and community involvement." Since 1956, the

school has offered a rigorous and engaging curriculum that emphasizes mathematics, social studies, science, technology, language arts, and religion. In the last decade, the school renovated its campus to install a state-of-the-art technology center, as well as an updated gymnasium, science lab, and weather forecast camera. St. Linus School has made a concerted effort to improve student performance, striving to guide every pupil to their full potential. I am delighted that the exemplary work of the teachers, support staff, and priests at St. Linus School, as well as that of the parents and students, has been acknowledged on a national stage.

Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of St. Linus School and the other 304 National Blue Ribbon award winners. Their pursuit of academic excellence is inspiring, and I hope that their success can be replicated across the Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MATTHEW CHRISTOPHER COLIN, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great respect and honor that I rise today to recognize the life and selfless sacrifice of Northwest Florida's beloved Private First Class Matthew Christopher Colin of Navarre, Florida.

Private First Class Colin was killed in action by an improvised explosive device on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 while on patrol in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. At the time, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, out of Fort Wainwright, Alaska. His military decorations and honors include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, NATO Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

A resident of Navarre, Florida, Matthew was born in St. Augustine, Florida on January 20, 1989, to Ken and Kathy Colin. Active in the Navarre Youth Sports Association, Matthew played football, basketball, baseball, and soccer. He was recognized as a top competitor in track and field at the age of seven. He graduated from Navarre High School in 2007. Following in the footsteps of his father, also an Army veteran, he answered the call to arms in February 2010. Upon successful completion of basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, he reported to Fort Wainwright, Alaska in September 2010.

Matthew's selflessness and sense of community were apparent even before he joined the Army. His former high school teachers describe him as an honorable young man with a strong sense of values and morals. He previously worked as a fitness instructor at the

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